May 14, 1829

My name is Mollie and I am traveling with my Mama, Father, and two brothers named Peter and Walter. Today, my family and I set out on the Santa Fe Trail. Father says that we only have to travel half the amount as the others do because we’re starting at Fort Dodge. It was sad to leave my toys and friends at home, but Mama says we are gonna have a better life once we reach New Mexico. It was our first day on the trail today and we are traveling in a big group of wagons with lots of folks. Many had a lot of little children but there were not a lot of girls around my age.

I made a new frend today named Lydia. Are wagons are right next to each other so we get to play while walking with the rest of the group. We didn’t see nothing new today just the usual; plain baren land with alot of grass. Though Lydia and I did help Peter and Walter find a rabbit, but weren’t expecting them to kill it! That was our dinner, but I could barely eat the rabbit after seeing it get killed. After dinner, I had to help Mama wrap up the rest of the rabbit that wasn’t cooked in salt and pack it tight together with newspaper. Around sundown, we finally reached Middle Crossing. There, we set up a camp and went to bed.

By: Mollie S.